



North Carolina
Geographic Information Coordinating Council
Chair: Dr. Lee Mandell

May 17, 2012

Richard Taylor
Executive Director
Information Technology Services
NC 911 Board
PO Box 17209
Raleigh, NC 27619-7209

Dear Richard:

The *Statewide GPS Data Collection and Documentation Standard* was first adopted by the Geographic Information Coordinating Council (GICC) in 1999 as state government agencies and their contractors began to use the technology for data collection. It has been updated twice since that time with the most recent update adopted by the GICC in February 2006.

The GPS Standard is intended to provide a minimum set of GPS data collection and documentation standards to help ensure more consistent accuracy and quality in the GPS data that is collected, used, and shared in the public sector. The GPS Standard differentiates between recreational grade and professional grade GPS equipment. Professional grade (i.e., either “mapping grade” or “survey grade”) is the only one appropriate for public sector data collection since it guarantees an accuracy of 1 to 5 meters with differential correction. The standard was not created with any particular user or application in mind. Rather it was targeted to support those data collection efforts that public sector agencies are engaged in regularly. GPS is used for collecting many types of geographic features including fire hydrants, street centerlines, forest stands, and street signage to name a few.

The GICC updates the GPS standard as changes in the technology warrant. In that sense, it is a living standard. The Council will likely prepare an update of the standard in the next one to two years as the technology continues to involve.

Sincerely,

Tim Johnson, GISP
Staff to the GICC